



January 23, 2004

SENATE BILL No. 251

DIGEST OF SB 251 (Updated January 21, 2004 1:23 pm - DI 104)

Citations Affected: IC 27-8; IC 27-13.

Synopsis: Health plan evidence of coverage. Allows an accident and sickness insurer and a health maintenance organization to provide evidence of coverage in electronic or paper form.

Effective: July 1, 2004.

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January 8, 2004, read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Provider Services.

January 22, 2004, reported favorably — Do Pass.

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SB 251—LS 6935/DI 97+



January 23, 2004

Second Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2004)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2003 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 251

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning insurance.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 27-8-5-19, AS AMENDED BY P.L.162-2001,
2 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 19. (a) As used in this chapter, "late enrollee" has
4 the meaning set forth in 26 U.S.C. 9801(b)(3).

5 (b) A policy of group accident and sickness insurance may not be
6 issued to a group that has a legal situs in Indiana unless it contains in
7 substance:

8 (1) the provisions described in subsection (c); or

9 (2) provisions that, in the opinion of the commissioner, are:

10 (A) more favorable to the persons insured; or

11 (B) at least as favorable to the persons insured and more
12 favorable to the policyholder;

13 than the provisions set forth in subsection (c).

14 (c) The provisions referred to in subsection (b)(1) are as follows:

15 (1) A provision that the policyholder is entitled to a grace period
16 of thirty-one (31) days for the payment of any premium due
17 except the first, during which grace period the policy will

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continue in force, unless the policyholder has given the insurer written notice of discontinuance in advance of the date of discontinuance and in accordance with the terms of the policy. The policy may provide that the policyholder is liable to the insurer for the payment of a pro rata premium for the time the policy was in force during the grace period. A provision under this subdivision may provide that the insurer is not obligated to pay claims incurred during the grace period until the premium due is received.

(2) A provision that the validity of the policy may not be contested, except for nonpayment of premiums, after the policy has been in force for two (2) years after its date of issue, and that no statement made by a person covered under the policy relating to the person's insurability may be used in contesting the validity of the insurance with respect to which the statement was made, unless:

(A) the insurance has not been in force for a period of two (2) years or longer during the person's lifetime; or

(B) the statement is contained in a written instrument signed by the insured person.

However, a provision under this subdivision may not preclude the assertion at any time of defenses based upon a person's ineligibility for coverage under the policy or based upon other provisions in the policy.

(3) A provision that a copy of the application, if there is one, of the policyholder must be attached to the policy when issued, that all statements made by the policyholder or by the persons insured are to be deemed representations and not warranties, and that no statement made by any person insured may be used in any contest unless a copy of the instrument containing the statement is or has been furnished to the insured person or, in the event of death or incapacity of the insured person, to the insured person's beneficiary or personal representative.

(4) A provision setting forth the conditions, if any, under which the insurer reserves the right to require a person eligible for insurance to furnish evidence of individual insurability satisfactory to the insurer as a condition to part or all of the person's coverage.

(5) A provision specifying any additional exclusions or limitations applicable under the policy with respect to a disease or physical condition of a person that existed before the effective date of the person's coverage under the policy and that is not otherwise

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excluded from the person's coverage by name or specific description effective on the date of the person's loss. An exclusion or limitation that must be specified in a provision under this subdivision:

(A) may apply only to a disease or physical condition for which medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment was received by the person or recommended to the person during the six (6) months before the enrollment date of the person's coverage; and

(B) may not apply to a loss incurred or disability beginning after the earlier of:

(i) the end of a continuous period of twelve (12) months beginning on or after the enrollment date of the person's coverage; or

(ii) the end of a continuous period of eighteen (18) months beginning on the enrollment date of the person's coverage if the person is a late enrollee.

This subdivision applies only to group policies of accident and sickness insurance other than those described in section 2.5(a)(1) through 2.5(a)(8) of this chapter.

(6) A provision specifying any additional exclusions or limitations applicable under the policy with respect to a disease or physical condition of a person that existed before the effective date of the person's coverage under the policy. An exclusion or limitation that must be specified in a provision under this subdivision:

(A) may apply only to a disease or physical condition for which medical advice or treatment was received by the person during a period of three hundred sixty-five (365) days before the effective date of the person's coverage; and

(B) may not apply to a loss incurred or disability beginning after the earlier of the following:

(i) The end of a continuous period of three hundred sixty-five (365) days, beginning on or after the effective date of the person's coverage, during which the person did not receive medical advice or treatment in connection with the disease or physical condition.

(ii) The end of the two (2) year period beginning on the effective date of the person's coverage.

This subdivision applies only to group policies of accident and sickness insurance described in section 2.5(a)(1) through 2.5(a)(8) of this chapter.

(7) If premiums or benefits under the policy vary according to a

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person's age, a provision specifying an equitable adjustment of:

- (A) premiums;
- (B) benefits; or
- (C) both premiums and benefits;

to be made if the age of a covered person has been misstated. A provision under this subdivision must contain a clear statement of the method of adjustment to be used.

(8) A provision that the insurer will issue to the policyholder, for delivery to each person insured, a certificate, **in electronic or paper form**, setting forth a statement that:

- (A) explains the insurance protection to which the person insured is entitled;
- (B) indicates to whom the insurance benefits are payable; and
- (C) explains any family member's or dependent's coverage under the policy.

(9) A provision stating that written notice of a claim must be given to the insurer within twenty (20) days after the occurrence or commencement of any loss covered by the policy, but that a failure to give notice within the twenty (20) day period does not invalidate or reduce any claim if it can be shown that it was not reasonably possible to give notice within that period and that notice was given as soon as was reasonably possible.

(10) A provision stating that:

- (A) the insurer will furnish to the person making a claim, or to the policyholder for delivery to the person making a claim, forms usually furnished by the insurer for filing proof of loss; and
- (B) if the forms are not furnished within fifteen (15) days after the insurer received notice of a claim, the person making the claim will be deemed to have complied with the requirements of the policy as to proof of loss upon submitting, within the time fixed in the policy for filing proof of loss, written proof covering the occurrence, character, and extent of the loss for which the claim is made.

(11) A provision stating that:

- (A) in the case of a claim for loss of time for disability, written proof of the loss must be furnished to the insurer within ninety (90) days after the commencement of the period for which the insurer is liable, and that subsequent written proofs of the continuance of the disability must be furnished to the insurer at reasonable intervals as may be required by the insurer;
- (B) in the case of a claim for any other loss, written proof of

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the loss must be furnished to the insurer within ninety (90) days after the date of the loss; and

(C) the failure to furnish proof within the time required under clause (A) or (B) does not invalidate or reduce any claim if it was not reasonably possible to furnish proof within that time, and if proof is furnished as soon as reasonably possible but (except in case of the absence of legal capacity of the claimant) no later than one (1) year from the time proof is otherwise required under the policy.

(12) A provision that:

(A) all benefits payable under the policy (other than benefits for loss of time) will be paid in accordance with IC 27-8-5.7; and

(B) subject to due proof of loss, all accrued benefits under the policy for loss of time will be paid not less frequently than monthly during the continuance of the period for which the insurer is liable, and any balance remaining unpaid at the termination of the period for which the insurer is liable will be paid as soon as possible after receipt of the proof of loss.

(13) A provision that benefits for loss of life of the person insured are payable to the beneficiary designated by the person insured. However, if the policy contains conditions pertaining to family status, the beneficiary may be the family member specified by the policy terms. In either case, payment of benefits for loss of life is subject to the provisions of the policy if no designated or specified beneficiary is living at the death of the person insured. All other benefits of the policy are payable to the person insured. The policy may also provide that if any benefit is payable to the estate of a person or to a person who is a minor or otherwise not competent to give a valid release, the insurer may pay the benefit, up to an amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), to any relative by blood or connection by marriage of the person who is deemed by the insurer to be equitably entitled to the benefit.

(14) A provision that the insurer has the right and must be allowed the opportunity to:

(A) examine the person of the individual for whom a claim is made under the policy when and as often as the insurer reasonably requires during the pendency of the claim; and

(B) conduct an autopsy in case of death if it is not prohibited by law.

(15) A provision that no action at law or in equity may be brought to recover on the policy less than sixty (60) days after proof of

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loss is filed in accordance with the requirements of the policy and that no action may be brought at all more than three (3) years after the expiration of the time within which proof of loss is required by the policy.

(16) In the case of a policy insuring debtors, a provision that the insurer will furnish to the policyholder, for delivery to each debtor insured under the policy, a certificate of insurance describing the coverage and specifying that the benefits payable will first be applied to reduce or extinguish the indebtedness.

(17) If the policy provides that hospital or medical expense coverage of a dependent child of a group member terminates upon the child's attainment of the limiting age for dependent children set forth in the policy, a provision that the child's attainment of the limiting age does not terminate the hospital and medical coverage of the child while the child is:

- (A) incapable of self-sustaining employment because of mental retardation or mental or physical disability; and
- (B) chiefly dependent upon the group member for support and maintenance.

A provision under this subdivision may require that proof of the child's incapacity and dependency be furnished to the insurer by the group member within one hundred twenty (120) days of the child's attainment of the limiting age and, subsequently, at reasonable intervals during the two (2) years following the child's attainment of the limiting age. The policy may not require proof more than once per year in the time more than two (2) years after the child's attainment of the limiting age. This subdivision does not require an insurer to provide coverage to a mentally retarded or mentally or physically disabled child who does not satisfy the requirements of the group policy as to evidence of insurability or other requirements for coverage under the policy to take effect. In any case, the terms of the policy apply with regard to the coverage or exclusion from coverage of the child.

(18) A provision that complies with the group portability and guaranteed renewability provisions of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (P.L.104-191).

(d) Subsection (c)(5), (c)(8), and (c)(13) do not apply to policies insuring the lives of debtors. The standard provisions required under section 3(a) of this chapter for individual accident and sickness insurance policies do not apply to group accident and sickness insurance policies.

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1 (e) If any policy provision required under subsection (c) is in whole
2 or in part inapplicable to or inconsistent with the coverage provided by
3 an insurer under a particular form of policy, the insurer, with the
4 approval of the commissioner, shall delete the provision from the
5 policy or modify the provision in such a manner as to make it
6 consistent with the coverage provided by the policy.

7 SECTION 2. IC 27-13-7-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
8 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 5. **(a)** A subscriber
9 under a group contract must receive an evidence of coverage from:

10 (1) the group contract holder; or

11 (2) the health maintenance organization.

12 **(b) The group contract holder or health maintenance**
13 **organization may provide the evidence of coverage required under**
14 **subsection (a) in electronic or paper form.**

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COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 251, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill DO PASS.

(Reference is made to Senate Bill 251 as introduced.)

MILLER, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0.

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